

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph at page 22, lines 1 through 9 with the following amended paragraph:

a1
The hand assembly may include a base piece with a pair of holders coupled with a base piece. One of these holders is adapted to receive a thumb and the other adapted to hold a forefinger. Each holder may comprise a metal bar positioned along the thumb or forefinger and a ~~Velcro~~ VELCRO (fibrous loop material) loop for attaching the thumb or finger to the bar. The hand assembly may further include a pair of rotating element pivotally supported from opposite ends of the base piece. One of these holders is secured to one of the rotating elements so that the surgeon can move one holder toward and away from the other holder. The pivotal joint that connects the hand assembly to the distal end of the distal arm is connected to the other rotating element, to account for rotational motion at the surgeon's wrist.

Please replace the paragraph at page 45, lines 6 through 11 with the following amended paragraph:

a2
At the very distal end of the master station is a forefinger member 112 that rotates relative to end 114 of the hand piece 105. As indicated in FIG. 3, the forefinger piece 112 has a ~~Velcro~~ VELCRO (fibrous loop material) loop 116 for holding the surgeon's forefinger to the piece 112. Also extending from the hand piece 105 is a fixed position thumb piece 118, with an associated ~~Velcro~~ VELCRO (fibrous loop material) loop 120. In FIG. 3, motion J7 represents the opening and closing between the surgeon's forefinger and thumb.